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|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Substitute Form PTO-1449<br>(Modified)<br><br><b>Information Disclosure Statement<br/>by Applicant</b><br>(Use several sheets if necessary)<br><br>(37 CFR §1.98(b)) | U.S. Department of Commerce<br>Patent and Trademark Office |  | Attorney's Docket No.<br>00167-397001 | Application No.<br>09/233,394 |
|  | Applicant<br>Glenn Knox                                    |  |                                       |                               |
|  | Filing Date<br>January 19, 1999                            |  | Group Art Unit<br>3738                |                               |

### U.S. Patent Documents

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Patent Number | Issue Date | Patentee | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|------------------|-----------|---------------|------------|----------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
|                  | AA        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                  | AB        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                  | AC        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                  | AD        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                  | AE        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |


### Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document Number | Publication Date | Country or Patent Office | Class | Subclass | Translation |    |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|                  |           |                 |                  |                          |       |          | Yes         | No |
|                  | AF        |                 |                  |                          |       |          |             |    |
|                  | AG        |                 |                  |                          |       |          |             |    |
|                  | AH        |                 |                  |                          |       |          |             |    |

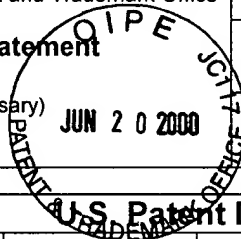
### Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document   |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| <i>DB</i>        | AI        | Fujihiko Kasano et al., "Utilization of nickel-titanium shape memory alloy for stapes prosthesis", Auris Nasus Larynx, Vol. 24, pp. 137-142 (1997) |
|                  | AJ        |  |
|                  | AK        |  |
|                  | AL        |  |

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| Examiner Signature<br>  | Date Considered<br>1/24/01 |
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|--|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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|  |  | Filing Date<br>January 19, 1999       | Group Art Unit<br>3738        |



| U.S. Patent Documents |           |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|------------|----------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| Examiner Initial      | Desig. ID | Patent Number | Issue Date | Patentee | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|                       | AA        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                       | AB        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                       | AC        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                       | AD        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                       | AE        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                       | AF        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                       | AG        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                       | AH        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
|                       | AI        |               |            |          |       |          |                            |
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| Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications |           |                 |                  |                          |       |          |             |    |
|---|-----------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| Examiner Initial  | Desig. ID | Document Number | Publication Date | Country or Patent Office | Class | Subclass | Translation |    |
|   |           |                 |                  |                          |       |          | Yes         | No |
| DI  | AL        | 0 379 470 A     | 08/1990          | Europe                   |       |          |             |    |
| I   | AM        | WO98 22042      | 05/1998          | PCT International        |       |          |             |    |
| I   | AN        | WO98 24371      | 06/1998          | PCT International        |       |          |             |    |
| DI  | AO        | 0 909 554 A     | 04/1999          | Europe                   |       |          |             |    |
|   | AP        |                 |                  |                          |       |          |             |    |

| Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication) |           |  |
|---|-----------|--|
| Examiner Initial  | Desig. ID | Document   |
| DI  | AQ        | DATABASE WPI, Section PQ, Week 9207, Derwent Publications Limited, London, GB; Class P32, AN 92-054843 XP002136222 & SU 1 634 272A (TOMSK UNIV.SIBE. PHYS.), 15 March 1991 abstract. |
|   | AR        |  |
|   | AS        |  |
|   | AT        |  |

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Examiner Signature<br><b>David J. Isabella</b><br>Primary Examiner   | Date Considered<br>7/28/00 |
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